

Monday is looming...

Monday. Of all the days of the week Monday seems to be the day many people dread. You might be savouring a Sunday afternoon lunch with friends, as I was recently, the suddenly realize Monday is looming and there are things that need to be done. Author John Updike called this malady the “chronic sadness of late Sunday afternoon.” Your mood shifts and a certain melancholy may take hold. It’s not just an adult phenomenon.

Migraine headaches can start anytime, but according to research by Dr Leslie Kelman, migraines in school age children are more likely to occur on Mondays. The report did not look at causes, but they may well be triggered by the stress associated with returning to school on Mondays.

Mondays can be downright dangerous. According to research published in the British Medical Journal, more people die from heart attack on Monday than any other day of the week. The 33% increase in death from heart attack on Mondays may be the result of stress and tension of heading back to work.

What if I told you there was a well-researched and statistically proven programme that has been

demonstrated to: increase average life expectancy by seven years or more, facilitate faster rebound from depression, increase immune system effectiveness, increase happiness, reduce levels of stress, reduce divorce, brings inner peace, encourages self confidence in children and adults, provides effective mechanisms to cope with difficult life events (such as the death of a loved one, or job loss) with greater resilience, generates hope, and satisfaction with life.

What if there was a programme that could provide all those benefits and more? What would it be worth to you? The programme is free. The time commitment is two hours a week. It is simple to get involved, it really works and you have already been invited to join. This amazing life enhancement programme is called, “active church participation.”

Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life; life in all its fullness.” You were created for LIFE. As a way to get even more from the programme share the goodness with all you know. It’s a wonderful calling.

Howard

Chronicle

Cowley Team Ministry

June 2011

Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

Have you noticed what a wonderful year this is for roses? From the dear little pink wild roses in the hedgerows to the huge cabbage roses in so many gardens they have been magnificent, none more so than the one by the main entrance of the Church Centre. This creamy-white climbing rose was planted two years ago as a tribute to Eric Uren's memory. Eric was the first male member of Cowley Mothers' Union and we felt that it was a lovely way to remember him. At the same time we planted a deep red rose to the memory of Phyl McLaren, a long serving member and branch leader. Her rose, also flowering beautifully, graces the back wall of the Centre perfuming the air next to the patio.

I hope you, dear readers, will indulge my little bit of nonsense in the shape of my poem about holiday shoes. This month sees the fourth anniversary of my taking on the editorship of our parish magazine so perhaps, with a smile, you will forgive a silly little jingle. Some years ago I was lucky enough to go on a pilgrimage with Fr John Tomlinson, Clare and about fifteen other Cowley parishioners to Assisi. It was a memorable experience but I got a huge amount of gentle teasing especially from Fr John because I did in fact take seven pairs of shoes in my luggage and pair number eight I travelled in!

We have a date for Cowley's Last Night of the Proms concert for 2011. Plans are already afoot for another evening of champagne, flags, great music and singing. The date is Saturday, 24 September. Posters will be out soon and tickets on sale next

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month.

Forgive me for getting a little excited but as a result of trawling through so many parish archives I think I might have solved a mystery which has puzzled four Cowley rectors to my knowledge (and maybe more). On the south wall of the Parish Church, towards the east end there is a strange plaque. Even after close-up photography the writing carved into it is indecipherable. Fr Edward Walker wrote in his booklet "Cowley and its Parish Church" that there was a "mysterious decorated panel on the outside south wall" a relic from the 17th century. Fr Keith and Fr Stephen both found it intriguing and when I pointed it out to Howard he too was intrigued. Now I think I have solved it. From the Victoria County History comes this note – "In the 18th century the church was twice redecorated and whitewashed inside; once in 1702 when an inscription was placed on the outside of the south wall, which read 'This church was beautified in the Year of Our Lord 1702'. I am pretty certain that is it.

God Bless

Rosanne

Definitions

You may remember the recent invitation in St James Link to a Christian Aid envelope 'bundling' party at Rosanne & Frank's home. The task did not take us long at all; it was a very jolly affair, made all the more so by Connie's discovery of a surprising definition of 'bundling' See what your dictionary gives.....

Bell Ringing News

On Saturday, 14th May St James' bell ringers took part in a 'striking' competition at Kidlington church, other towers taking part were mostly from the city centre so we were there with the elite. A striking competition meant we had to ring for one minute in rounds then make 120 changes (specific changes in the order of the bells) in four minutes. A full five minutes may not seem very long but it felt like a lifetime. There is no need to go into too much detail of how it went for us but we were commended for our bravery in taking part! In our defence the bells at Kidlington are known as being very heavy. When we got down from the tower (spiral stone stairs with a rope) they made us a pot of tea - I think some of us must have looked quite white, I know I did.

We now have the official results through:

- 1st place St Aldates - 28 faults;
- 2nd place St Giles - 37 faults;
- 3rd place Kidlington - 47 faults;
- 4th place Wheatley - 90 faults;
- 5th place Iffley - 100 faults;
- 6th place Cowley - 110 faults.

Never mind, tomorrow is Sunday and we will be ringing our own bells at St James' and enjoying every minute of it.

For a long time we had a young lady from the Kidlington tower who used to come and ring with us on our Monday practice night - I wonder why?

Prince Philip's 90th birthday

On Sunday 12th June in addition to ringing before the 10 o'clock service we will also be ringing after the service to commemorate Prince Phillip's 90th birthday..

THE THOUGHTS OF A 90 YEAR OLD – CONTINUED:

15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.
16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
18. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
22. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words 'In five years, will this matter?'
27. Always choose life.
28. Forgive everyone everything.
29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time.

Very few of our readers will know that every year Mothers' Union branches from all over the world take part in a Wave of prayer. This encompasses the world and ensures that prayers for families and especially women take place on almost every day throughout the year. Here in Cowley, our turn to take part in this wonderful initiative comes around every June. It will come as no surprise to those who know us that we make this something of a special occasion. We meet at the appointed time in St Luke's Chapel in the Parish Church for our lovely prayer time and then repair to the Church Centre for strawberries, cream and shortbread and cups of tea. Women in many places need our prayers particularly those caught up in poverty, warfare, domestic violence or mental cruelty. Do come and join us, you do not have to be a member. Let us know if you can come so that we can get enough strawberries ready. We shall meet at 3.30 pm on Monday, 13th June in St James' Church. The prayers are timed for just over 30 minutes duration.

The "Puddings and Quiz" evening on 6th May has

been declared a real success by several people. The puds were superb, the quiz was just hard enough to make you think and easy enough for everyone to get some correct answers and we made enough profit to be able to increase our annual donation to the Church Centre as a thank you for our monthly bookings.

The May monthly meeting was also a very pleasant occasion. Our former diocesan president gave a lively and entertaining talk on "Faithful Relationships".

This month's talk is entitled "The Story of the Rose" – very appropriate for June. The date of the meeting is 20th June at 2.30 pm in the Church Centre.

In response to popular demand we are holding another "Poems, wine and cheese" evening on Friday, October 7th. There will be more news of this in the September Chronicle but you might like to pop the date in your diaries if you think it could be your kind of evening.

A P O E T I C M Y S T E R Y

A lady named Maureen Mannion-Jones has contacted The Chronicle to find out if any of our readers remembers this little poem in St Luke's Church. She would also like to know what happened to it as the construction workers told her it would be transferred to another church. Does anyone know if its whereabouts?

Here a man shall be free from the noise of his life.

God gives you peace beneath the shadow of this house.

God give you rest and make your heart the subject of his care

God give you love a gift received from him without compare.

God keep you friend.

Anonymous

I found and copied this poem which I found in the hall by the south door of St Luke's Church, Cowley Oxford, before internal reconstructing of the above church, now known as the Oxford Record Office.

Maureen Mannion-Jones

COWLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Tuesday, 21 June 2011 commencing at 8.00 pm

The Ultimate Survivor

A documentary film about the Penultimate Picture Palace, Jeune Street which has just celebrated its 100th anniversary

Directed by Philip Hind

At **United Reformed Church**, Temple Road, Cowley

Membership fee: £15 (OAP £13)

Visitors welcome: £3 per meeting



2011 marks the 100th anniversary of one of Oxford's more unusual landmarks. The little cinema on Jeune Street opened on 24th February 1911, a period when commercial and regulatory pressure was forcing film out of the fairgrounds and into the new and ever grander purpose-built theatres. But while the early years of the 20th century saw film become the predominant entertainment for the masses and cinema a lucrative business, the Oxford Picture Palace suffered because it was small and tucked away in a side street. It closed in 1917 when its owner was called up for war service.

After 59 years of neglect, the near derelict building was unexpectedly saved and reopened in 1976 as an off-beat arts cinema. In this guise the Penultimate Picture Palace gained a reputation for challenging censorship and showing controversial and unusual films, a stance that led to much legal wrangling and which, in 1988, brought the cinema to the brink of disaster.

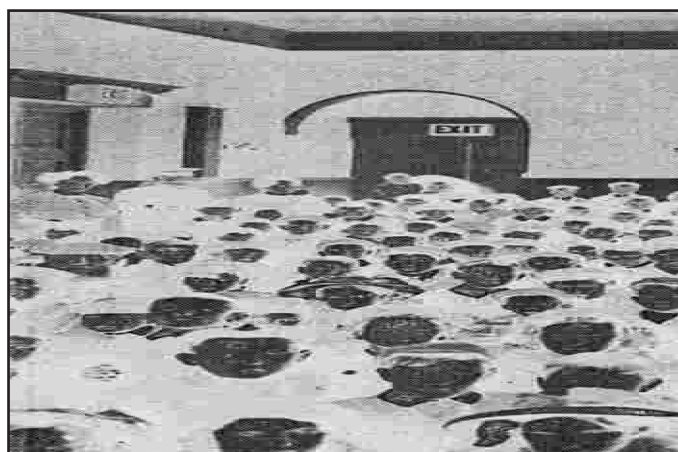
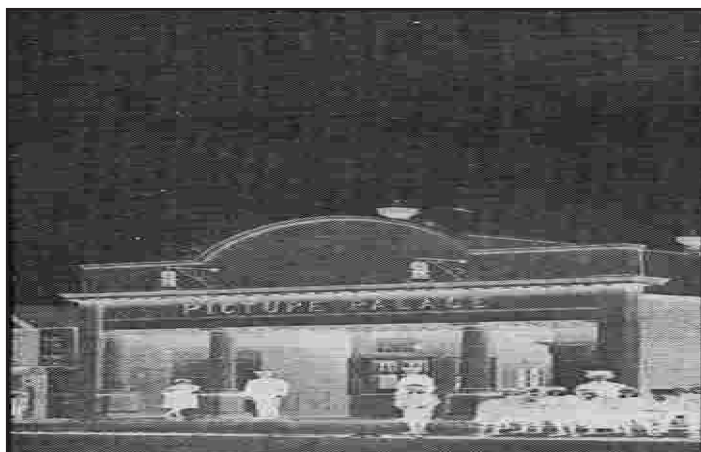
With an unusual name came an unusual appearance: a pair of outstretched white hands – reminiscent of Al Jolson's minstrel character in *The Jazz Singer* – hung invitingly over the facade. The interior was lit with moorish lanterns while male and female sculptures cheekily named Pearl and Dean (a reference to the proprietors' refusal to show on-screen advertising) stood sentry over the toilets.

Having a keen interest in documentary film making and having been a regular at the PPP when I came to Oxford in 1992, I felt the centenary provided the ideal opportunity to tell the story of this special place.

Production took place over nine months during which time we interviewed local characters such as two people who squatted in the cinema in protest at the Criminal Justice Bill in 1994; the niece of a first world war usherette as well as such luminaries as Ian Hislop, radio presenter Bill Heine, the science fiction writer Brian Aldiss and Mark Thompson, the Director General of the BBC, all of whom were happy to share their memories of the PPP.

Please do come along to a special screening of this film at the URC on 21st June at 8pm.

Philip Hind



God in my life...

It is always interesting for other people to know why people make changes in their lives, particularly in matters of religion. People like me who make such changes are also looking for interest and fascination. My particular upbringing as a Catholic concentrated more on the intellectual side of religion. This probably is not true for all Catholics, but it was for me. Living in Oxford acted as a barrier to my breaking out of this intellectual mode. There came a time when I needed to see God not just in faith, in the Trinity, in Communion and Confession, but also in life events and in people. My intellectual approach did not help me to forgive and let myself and others move on.

Suddenly everything came to a head. I was in crisis really and so decided it would be best to join a different church. It was not easy to do because

nobody could really advise me. A great deal of time was spent on the internet looking at church websites. Looking at the different denominations, I realised I could probably never give up enough to be a Methodist. At the same time the evangelical churches were a bit too much for me, with people falling on the ground, although I cannot discount that this may be a real experience for many people. Personally I could not worship like that. This left me really with the Church of England. It would have been easy to join one of the catholic churches in the Church of England, but I realised that this was not the real solution. There had to be a change.

Of the churches available, the university church is out of bounds to me and the worship elsewhere perhaps a bit too modern. That left me with the option of St James, a church with

history and tradition but not outside the modern age.

I believe this church has provided what I was looking for. Of course it is a journey and one that has only just begun, but sometimes when prayer life is challenging it is nice to be able to see God in another person, or to be accepted if I have made a mistake, or to accept somebody else who has not. I often find that when you get to the truth, there is a reason why somebody else does something and this is a way of finding God. It does not have to be about reading Latin or Greek and so forth.

Of course it would have been better if my decision had been made earlier, but I think God was very patient with me, waiting for the time when he knew I would allow his Holy Spirit to guide me.

Ron Maguire

COWLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Next Meeting is on Wednesday, 15 June at 2 pm – 4.30 pm at St James Church Centre.

Speaker: Mrs Carol Hunt

Subject: Re-inventing your Wardrobe

Hope you will come and join us..

Every time I see a church
I pay a little visit.
So when at last I'm carried in
The Lord won't say "Who is it?"

Gladys Vaughan

(From Holy Cross Church, Mwnt, Wales)

The Origins of Cowley

Part Thirteen : The Hospitallers take Over

As I explained two months ago the Knights Templars were disbanded in the second half of the fourteenth century accused of terrible crimes of blasphemy and bestiality against the Church. It would seem through the research I have done, that many of these accusations were founded in jealousy and suspicion mainly due to the power and influence they had gained through the wealth accrued over a couple of centuries. Of course, as holy men, they were not expected to amass riches. However through gifts of land and gold and through clever management this had happened. They were defamed by Kings in Europe, tried for their “crimes” and many of them burned at the stake. On Friday, 13th February 1370, the last of their leaders were burned in France and their organisation was at an end.

Many of the Templars especially in England simply made themselves scarce by moving away to countries such as Switzerland or Spain, though many of them joined the other movement of Crusading Knights, the Knights Hospitallers. These Knights fulfilled much the same role as the Templars at the time and became known as the Knights of St John. They took their title from the hospital of St John which they established a little south of Jerusalem at the time of the crusades. They also built castles and hospitals in many places across the Middle East and after a time spent in Cyprus withdrew to Malta where their headquarters is still situated. The Knights themselves did not necessarily act as doctors and nurses but recruited lay medical men and women to work for them.

History has it that when the Templars were disbanded the Hospitallers took over their

preceptories and land so that immediately begs the question – is that what happened in Cowley? Well, readers, that question has led me on a merry dance because finding evidence of this has been extraordinarily difficult. However, I am at last confident to say “yes”.

All I had to go on was the name of the little cul-de-sac off St Omer Road called Gerard Place. Father Gerard was the founder of the Hospitallers in about 1113AD but that did not seem enough evidence. So what else could I find? Old records show that one villager, John Pulker, rented part of the Westbury lands from the Hospitallers and several pieces of land in Temple Cowley were also rented from them. So there we are. They did hold the estate of Cowley left behind by the Knight Templars. If I track down any more information about all this I promise I will report back.

One thing does intrigue me – did the Hospitallers move in to the large preceptory off Hollow Way? When was it demolished or did it just fall into disrepair? As we know the village of tiny cottages which surrounded it grew into the large area of Temple Cowley.

The Hospitallers ran Littlemore Priory and farmed the land they gained at Sandford. More importantly they founded the first real hospital Oxford ever had on the banks of the Cherwell just below where Magdalen Tower now stands. The doorway to this hospital can still be seen (sealed off and protected by a metal guard) along the wall of Magdalen College just opposite the Botanical Gardens. As far as we are concerned they also owned and farmed the parish of Cowley too.

Rosanne Interviews Mona Lal

We are told in our Bibles that each and every one of us has God given talents which He needs us to use for the good of each other and for his glory. I always enjoy the idea of the gift of hospitality, by the way, it seems such a pleasant and cosy “gift”. I guess that knowing that God has called us to use these gifts are what we call a vocation. Mona, the lady I interviewed this month, is totally convinced that her career in nursing was a true vocation and gained enormous satisfaction from doing the work God called her to do. All I know is that a gentle and caring nurse who is there when you need one is the nearest person to an angel this side of heaven. Not that Mona would expect to be described as an angel, not a bit of it.

She was born in the Punjab region of India, one of a family of three. A small cloud crossed over her face as she told me that her parents and both her brother and sister have all died. Her closest members from her side of the family are two talented nephews, one a doctor and the other an engineer both living and working in India. However, she has, of course, her lovely husband, James, and her own four children who are so important to her.

Her home in the Punjab was out in the countryside. Her parents were devout Christians and decided that, at the age of five, she should be sent to a Christian mission boarding school. As we spoke I visualised this tiny girl being sent out into the world to be educated (she is only a small lady, even now!) and asked how she had felt. She admitted that there had been a few tears

but added that they soon dried because the Principal was such a wonderful person. Her name was Miss Orbison, an American, who taught English. She described all the teachers as “lovely”. Her unshakeable faith in God was established very early on at the school. Religious studies, English, Punjabi, Hindi and Indian history were all part of the curriculum but Mona’s absolute favourite was maths. As she progressed through the school she became a good netball player though I was very surprised to hear that she was a useful shooter. She told me she could jump very high and I thought to myself, Well, Mona, you’d have to get that ball high enough”. And she told me with a little smile that she could go home to the family at the end of term.

At the age of about thirteen she went on to another mission school, High School, where she continued to enjoy her maths lessons adding economics as another subject which interested her. The school was divided into three sections – girls, boys and technical – which I thought sounded rather strange. However, Mona’s husband who joined us at the end of the interview explained that the technical section was for pupils who were less academic and included apprenticeships in practical studies.

It was at High School that James and Mona met and became friends, attending church together, singing in the choir and helping with the younger children’s groups. At sixteen, in 1964, she left school coming out top in all her exams and knowing, without a shadow of a doubt that her vocation was

in nursing. Her family have had a tradition of working in the medical world as doctors, midwives and so on for at least three generations and as I mentioned earlier her nephew is carrying on that tradition even now.

Because of her excellent grades she was accepted into an American mission hospital in Umbala. She was taken on as a student nurse for a three month probationary period under the direction of a “wonderful doctor” (her own words) named Dr Gibbons. More exams followed which she passed well and she then continued her training until the age of twenty three. By now Mona felt it was time to move on in her career. She had heard from colleagues at the hospital that London was a good place to work or maybe Canada.

All this time she had stayed in contact, mainly by ‘phone, with her friend, James. He had left India and found work in Germany. Mona’s final choice was London. Canada was a long way from Germany and, anyway, she had family friends living in London. It took her just two weeks after her arrival in this country to be accepted as a children’s nurse at Great Ormond Street Hospital, due, of course, to her good qualifications and excellent references. James came over from Germany and they were married.

She continued to work in London moving from Great Ormond Street Hospital to the prestigious Plaistow Children’s Hospital. She particularly specialised in nursing children with physical abnormalities. James had a sister living in Swindon so he joined

her for a while until he found work at the Leyland factory here in Cowley. He and Mona could afford to buy a house so at last they were settled in their own home. She came to work in Oxford at The Slade and the Churchill Hospitals. Soon their first baby, Raj, was on the way and she nursed on a part-time basis.

Three more children followed – Juliet, Neil and Steve. All four of their children have achieved high academic degrees and their graduation photographs sit in pride of place on the sitting-room wall along with that of James and Mona's nephew whom they brought up after Mona's sister died.

After twenty five years at the factory James retired. Mona too has retired from the job she loved and although she did not actually say so I think she misses it a little bit. They found the Asian Christian Church in Cowley and although they stayed attached to it they wanted Sunday School for their children. They began to bring them to St James Church where they became close friends with Fr Keith and Cathy Haydon. Mona also speaks warmly of the good Christian teaching the children received from Margaret Martin at that time. Among the other friends she made there she mentioned Gwen Ranklin. James is a musician, he plays keyboard and teaches the choir and accompanies them in the

Asian Church. Mona, however, finds her spiritual needs fulfilled at St James. She mentioned the warmth and loving atmosphere she experiences there.

After a life full of activity (nursing involves a lot of leg work) working and bringing up her family it was with some dismay that she realised she had a "knee problem" and declared with a smile, that it has given her a new lease of life. She describes herself now as a "home lady" and she is looking forward to a smart new extension planned to be built very soon on the back of her pretty home, "Never mind the dust", she said.

How would you describe yourself as a small child?

Shy – I enjoyed school – my school never needed to complain about me to my parents.

Have you a never-to-be-forgotten memory of childhood?

My father loved dogs. We had an Alsatian and he bit me because I let him off the lead when I shouldn't. When I went to get him back he bit my arm. I still have the scar.

Has there been someone in your life who has had a strong influence on you?

My nursing superintendent, Sister Deluram, she was a Christian. She always kept me to do special things.

Has your faith been with you all your life?

My parents were both Christian. When I was born my mother and I were very ill. My mother told me that someone prayed on us, somebody sent by God. My mother was a sick lady and she told me she saw Jesus himself and four angels to take her to heaven. There was a big book and her name was not written in it so Jesus said "Take her back" and she returned to us.

What is your opinion of life today?

Scary. Everywhere in the world you don't know what is going to happen next. If I walk somewhere and I am scared, I say psalm 23 in my heart.

If you could change something in a big way what would you do?

Make peace in the world.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I watch television – the news, Indian films and family series. I like shopping for clothes and shoes, especially I love Bicester village and Marks and Spencer is "my" shop.

James had joined us by now and gave me a knowing wink! - ed.

What are your hopes for the future.

I want my children to get married so that James and I can be grandparents.

Notes from Number 93

The day before the Plant Sale dawned and by 10.30 two stalwart friends, Chris Hurdley and Margaret Weller, arrived as I had asked them to come and look at my plants to decide on pricing. After making our decisions, they gallantly stayed on to help stick coloured dots on labels and to box up all the plants so they could be transported up to the Church Centre later. We filled the garage! I don't think I could have done it all myself but with three of us, we had finished by 1.30!

At about 5.30 Chris Woodman and my husband, Graham, arrived and Margaret returned to help take everything up to Beauchamp Lane - eight car loads in all. In the Hall, tables were already being set up and more people and plants were arriving. We had an enormous quantity of plants to sell and we even had a holding bay of extras outside the kitchen. I must say that the display looked really good.

The Church Centre was a hive of activity on the following morning. We had a wide variety of items on the White Elephant, lots of cakes and other goodies on offer, Carol Thornton had preserves and lovely gardening-related prizes for a raffle, books galore in the lounge and a bustle of caterers in the kitchen. Five minutes early, the flood of people began and selling was hectic. Luckily, we had Chris Hurdley delegated to fill up spaces with plants from

our reserve stock!

Exhausted by 1pm, we began the clear up and the count. The cakes stall made over £91 and the White Elephant over £116 but the grand total which I banked on the following Monday was £880.04!

There will be some catering expenses but the great majority of this will go to the Churches' Fabric Fund. There were some plants still to be sold so this total, hopefully, will grow.

Opening my shed (No. 93) on the Monday, I was nearly drowned in pots and trays. I began the washing and tidying which will take me a while. As I do this I will be planning what to grow for next year and also thinking about what a lovely occasion the Plant Sale is with loads of people working together and really enjoying themselves. I am extremely grateful for everyone who had a hand in the success of the day. Thank you all!

Finally, two requests from me. I am now wanting small pots for individual plants for next year. If you have any, please pass them to me. Secondly, please let me know of plants that you would like to see on sale next year, as, God willing, we will do it all again on Saturday 12th May 2012!

Joan Coleman

You can contact me on Oxford 770865 and ojcoleman@btinternet.com

Family of 3 adults (1 student at Oxford University) is looking for renting a flat or house starting 15 July or 1 September 2011. Please call 07831976443 or 07826362056 or e-mail nicolae.nachescu@gmail.com

BOOK OF THE MONTH

THE FAR COUNTRY by Nevil Shute

Although this novel was written some years ago, it is still relevant today, for the relationship between the old world and the new is always topical. In this case it is the relationship between England and Australia (the Far Country) that is explored and developed with great finesse.

Nevil Shute always researches his books very thoroughly, so that they have a really authentic feel about them. He also takes great pains to develop the main characters in his stories with thoughtfulness and sympathy, so that they always come over well.

In his own life and career, before he became a writer, he was concerned with the development of flying and the building of aircraft. He also served in the Royal Navy in the second world war. Both of these backgrounds feature strongly in his writing. He became very successful with his novels and was well reviewed, but he became increasingly disillusioned with post-war Britain and its attitude towards people with talent. So much so, that he moved to Australia and took up farming there with some success. His admiration for the tough Australian characters who carved a living for themselves under difficult conditions comes over strongly. None more so than "A Town Like Alice" which was made into a famous film. In "The Far Country" this Australian farming background is realistically portrayed. The Europeans seem the weaker characters until a sudden crisis occurs with a tragic accident. Then they come into their own and rise to the occasion. This is a fine novel in the best SHUTE tradition, well worth reading.

HOLIDAY SHOES

*Preparing for the holiday there's such a lot to do
And when it comes to packing there's the question of my shoes*

*You see I'm never happy if my feet don't feel quite right
The footwear issues vital but my case is never light*

*We might go out exploring, long country walks are fun,
So nice, soft flatees are a must. That's shoe-bag number one.*

*We might go to the beach one day so sandals have to go.
Perhaps two pairs are sensible, you see, you never know!*

*We'll probably go into town so something smart I'll need.
That's only four pairs up to now, I'm doing well indeed.*

*Then there's the colour problem of black and navy blue.
A pair of each goes in the case. Will six pairs be too few?*

*And what about the evening at the hotel? (Might be smart)
Some heels to go with dresses – well I want to look the part.*

*You might think I am joking. "Seven pairs of shoes!" you say
I promise you it's true, I've taken more than that away.*

*And what of my poor husband? His usual score is two.
Two pairs of shoes, how does he cope? He always makes them do!*

Rosanne Butler



SAINT OF THE MONTH Thomas More

When someone falls foul to the temper of a selfish and vindictive ruler martyrdom is almost inevitably his fate. History tells us so and Britain has had no monarch more vindictive than Henry VIII.

Thomas More was the brilliant son of a successful London barrister and judge. After a short time, in his youth in the household of the Archbishop of Canterbury and two years studying at Cambridge, he was called home to take his place at the Bar and became a Member of Parliament. He had thought to enter the Church but instead married. Always a devoted Londoner and lawyer his faith was constant. His marriage was very happy. Family life, with three daughters and one son, centred on daily prayers.

He was deeply influenced by learned men of the day. He is described as a sophisticated intellectual. He was loyal to his wife and family, his King and friends and was soon chosen by King Henry for public office. From his first appointment as Under-Sheriff of London in 1510 he rose through a series of high positions until in 1525 he was made Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. He wrote extensively sometimes controversially. His main mission in life at that time was to pursue heretics whom he regarded as enemies of the State and the Church.

His beloved wife died whilst quite young but he married a widow who was an experienced housewife and thus provided a good stepmother for his children. He, by now a very rich man, moved to a fine house in Chelsea and had Hans Holbein paint a group portrait of his family. He

was highly favoured by the King even entertaining him privately in his own home.

However, clouds were gathering on the horizon in the person of Anne Boleyn. It is well known that Henry had a protracted and acrimonious struggle with the Pope over the validity of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, his former sister-in-law, and then first wife. Thomas doubted the honesty of the King to wish for a divorce. He tried to distance himself from the whole debacle and when pressed for his opinion spoke out against it. To get Thomas on his side Henry even made him Lord Chancellor of England in place of the deposed Cardinal Wolsey. Deeply in conflict with the King, Thomas resigned and refused to accept the divorce. Worse still he also refused to attend the wedding with Anne. He declared the marriage invalid and against God's will and was incarcerated in the Tower of London together with one of his closest friends and associates in the church, Bishop John Fisher.

He was tried in Westminster Hall. His defence was that no temporal prince can presume by law to take upon himself a spiritual pre-eminence given by Christ to St Peter and his successors as head of the Christian Church. Henry by now had made himself head of the Church of England.

Thomas More was condemned to death in 1533 and was sentenced to be beheaded at Tower Hill. He died for his faith declaring at the block that he was "the King's good servant, but God's first." His saints day is commemorated on 22 June.

RECIPE

Now that June is here it had to be a strawberry recipe, didn't it?

Strawberry Shortcake

- 6 oz plus one teaspoonful of softened butter
- 8ozs flour
- 2ozs icing sugar
- 1 egg yolk
- 10 fluid ozs double cream
- 1lb ripe strawberries, hulled and washed
- 2 tablespoons castor sugar

Use the teaspoon of butter to lightly grease two flat baking sheets.

Sift flour and icing sugar into a bowl and add the butter which has been cut into small chunks.

Mix the flour, icing sugar and butter together with your hands to make a smooth dough.

Stir in the egg and 2 tablespoons of cream to the dough

Mix well and form into a ball

Chill in 'fridge for 30 minutes under cling film

Pre-heat oven to about 180 C

Divide dough into two equal pieces on a floured surface roll each piece into 9 inch circles

Place on the baking sheets and bake for 12-15 minutes

Carefully place the shortcakes on to cooling racks

Meanwhile whisk together the remaining cream and castor sugar till it forms soft peaks

Keep one big strawberry to decorate the top, then slice the rest and stir them into the cream

Spoon the mixture on one of the cooled shortcakes

With a sharp knife cut the second one into 8 equal slices and arrange these over the top

Decorate with the big strawberry

St Francis News

After our recent AGM at St Francis, which had been postponed, I felt a good deal more confident about our little church than I had some three weeks previously.

There was a happy confident atmosphere at the meeting, and some positive progress was made towards electing people to responsible jobs, and planning for the future.

However, as Howard, our Chairman, pointed out, we shall all have to work harder at supporting one another in the absence of our own team vicar this year.

Our Easter Services went well, and a small team of dedicated workers had met together to clean and decorate our church ready for the great occasion on Easter Day. Our Friends of St Francis group still meets regularly, and is very enthusiastic. We were represented at the special tableaux arranged for Good Friday in St James Church. Our theme was

“Father Forgive” and, after much thought, our small display was quite meaningful in the end.

We have been seeing some fresh faces at our Sunday services recently, and that is always encouraging.

The Emergency Food Bank still operates regularly from our church and continues to do much sterling work amongst people who have fallen on hard times. A valuable Christian witness in the community.

John Shreeve

CHURCH COMMITTEES Cont

ST FRANCIS CHURCH COMMITTEE

Stella Atkinson
Shirley Coster
Mat Emerson
Lyn Lord
Jean Love
Diana Pope

DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Mothers' Union	Monday, 13 June 2011, at 3.30 pm in St James' Church	Wave of Prayer, followed by strawberries, cream and shortbread in St James' Church Centre
Women's Institute	Wednesday, 15th June 2011, 2 – 4.30 pm at St James Church Centre	Re-inventing your Wardrobe Speaker: Mrs Carol Hunt
Mothers' Union	Monday, 20th June 2011, commencing at 2.30 pm at St James Church Centre	The story of the Rose
Cowley Local History Society	At United Reformed Church, Temple Road, Cowley Tuesday, 21 June 2011 commencing at 8.00 pm	<i>THE ULTIMATE SURVIVOR</i> A documentary film about the Penultimate Picture Palace, Jeune Street, which has just celebrated its 100th anniversary By Philip Hind
Patronal Special Festival Service	Sunday, 24th July 2011	Special Festival Service followed by a barbeque at the Church Centre, with wine and goodies £5.00
Last Night of the Proms	Saturday, 24th September 2011 at St James Church	Watch for more details
Plant Sale	St James Church Centre Saturday, 12th May 2012	Watch for more details

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN JUNE

On June 3rd 1937 the Duke of Windsor (formerly Edward VIII) married the American divorcee Mrs Wallis Simpson.

The suffragette Emily Davidson tried to grab the reins of the King's horse on Derby Day, 4th June 1913. She fell beneath the horse and was fatally injured.

On June 13th 1842 Queen Victoria experienced her first train journey. She travelled from Slough to Paddington and wrote later "I am quite charmed with it."

In 286AD St Alban was beheaded on 23rd June during the Roman persecution of Christians in England. He was a Roman soldier who was baptised into the Christian faith.

The Automobile Association was formed on 29th June 1905. One of their aims was to stop drivers from being arrested for breaking the 20 mph speed limit.

It is hard to believe but on 30th June in 1892 a shower of frogs fell on Birmingham. They were said to be almost white in colour!

Gardening

I hope that you found the Plant Sale as useful as I did. On the Friday evening it was amazing how many plants we had. More came in on Saturday, and so did the customers! My runner beans did not germinate, so I am delighted to have bought some lovely plants which are already twirling around their supports. There were some beautiful tomato plants all ready to put in the ground or into grow bags for the greenhouse or the patio. The choices were really exciting, and the prices really generous. I heard various snippets of advice - always ask the experts! Roll on next year!

To prepare for 2012, we can sow biennials now. Foxgloves, Canterbury bells, sweet williams, all ready for flowering this time next year. Sow wallflowers, forget-me-nots, pansies, and verbena bonariensis for next year. They should be happy in trays and then kept in a sheltered place over winter. Various perennials can be propagated from cuttings now, e.g. pinks, wallflowers, geraniums and fuchsias. The latter two will need to be kept under cover in the winter. And don't be like me - remember to keep them watered (not too wet). Clematis can be

propagated by layering. Just pull a shoot down into the ground and nick the stem. Cover this with a stone and wait! After a year or so, the roots will have formed at the damaged area, and you can then sever the parent shoot.

Oh dear, this looks like a sermon! Now I will go out into the garden. The rhododendron was beautiful as usual, but now needs the remaining dead flowers taken off to leave space for the new shoots. Then I shall water it well with some ericaceous [acid] food. The adjoining clematis montana could be pruned now, but I shall leave it to continue clambering up the neighbour's leylandia. There is still plenty of room!

The clematis in the front garden have been/are beautiful this year. Other people are really pleased with their roses and peonies. Strawberries are in flower and the fruits are swelling. It will soon be time to buy some cream! We all have something to be pleased about, sights, colours and taste, and we can take pleasure in our English Summer!

Diana Pope

CHRONICLE ORDERS FOR 2011 – 2012

Please see over the page your form for the next ten issues of the *Chronicle*. If you would like to reorder please hand in your slip to May Morgan or Norah Shallow by 29 August with £3.50. New subscribers can obtain their slips from the two churches.

Spectacular Street Parties and Wonderful Weekends Away



Girlguiding

As of past experience Guides is the perfect place to have fun, make friends and chill out. During some sessions of guides, if the meeting is near an important (sometimes national) event, we plan a party. Furthermore, we also prepare to go for fabulous, fantastical weekends away with other members. Being part of the 5th Cowley Guides means a lot to me and I wish to carry on as a proud member of The Girl Guiding Association...

Adventurous obstacle courses, heavenly hot cocoa and creative crafts, that is the sound of my ideal weekend break with some of my friends; fortunately that all happened in late March, when I took part in a Girl Guides weekend at Jubilee House. It was certainly worth the wait! Arriving at Jubilee House was amazing; it looked so exploratory almost like wonderland. Jubilee House is a reasonably sized facility used by guides all over the country for activities ranging from evening games to weekends away and much, much more. 5th Cowley and 1st Blackbird Leys Guides joined each other for this trip helping one another complete particular challenges and quizzes using teamwork. All of the guides who participated in this individual event said "It was a great opportunity!" others saying "Wow, I would do that again!" - recommending it to other guides. Finally, all together, everyone enjoyed it and was immensely pleased they took part.

As if experiencing the remarkable Royal Wedding through our television screens wasn't enough, I got to be included in the exclusive Girl Guides party! Not only was the occasion incredible, we also learned a staggering amount about the whole royal family! Playing entertaining and amusing games whilst eating deliciously tasty treats - which were enjoyed greatly - means we all had an extremely exhilarating time!!!

All in all an astonishing event! We all look forward to the next one!

Madeleine Craig

CHRONICLE ORDER

Please reserve _____ copies of Chronicle for me each month, from September 2011 – July 2012 @ £3.50 per subscription.

I enclose £ _____ cash/cheque made payable to **Parish of Cowley**.

Signed: _____ Print name: _____

Phone: _____ I would like (name) _____
to collect my Chronicle.

WARNING

This article will empty your bank account and delete your brain.

DO NOT READ IT...AND TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS NOT TO READ IT

Two “scam” warnings were recently submitted to the *Chronicle* for publication. by a well-intentioned reader.

The first example comes in the form of an email:

- **Computer Virus:** *If you ever receive an apparently harmless email with a Power Point presentation called ‘Life is Beautiful’, DO NOT OPEN IT but delete it immediately. It is deadly, because if you do open it a message will appear on your screen saying: “It is too late now, your life is no longer beautiful.” Subsequently you will lose everything in your PC and the person who sent it will gain access to your name, email address and password.*

While this sounds very alarming a little research reveals that it is a hoax that originated in Portugal in 2002.

Of course it is possible for email attachments to contain viruses and you should exercise some caution when opening any file that you were not expecting and that you have up-to-date virus protection software on your computer.

The second scam warning goes as follows

- **Postal Scam:** *A card is posted through the door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) stating that they were unable to deliver*

a parcel and that you need to contact them on 09066611911 (a Premium Rate Number).

DO NOT call this number, as it is a mail scam originating in Belize. If you do call, you will hear a recorded message and you will already have been billed £315 for the phone call. If you should receive such a card, please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6611911.

The facts of this case are that some people *did* receive a card which suggested they ring the number shown and the parcel alert was phoney. Furthermore, the card was printed in such a way as to detract attention from the small print which stated that it was a premium rate number charging £1.50 per minute. When tested by the BBC they were actually charged £9.50 in total (not £315). When the facts became known the number mentioned above was cut off **in December 2005**.

The purpose of these hoaxes is simply to spread alarm and offers the hoaxer the satisfaction of seeing how far their creation can propagate; (they always come with an instruction to pass the message onto as many people as possible,). Always check the facts before passing on warnings of scams and viruses. A very useful website to visit is **www.snopes.com** which seeks to explode, confirm or explain urban myths.

**EXTRACT FROM
COWLEY PARISH
MAGAZINE,
JULY 1922**

Letter from
Charity Commission
to Rev. George Moore,
Cowley Vicarage, Oxford:

ELDER STUBBS' ALLOTMENT

Reverend Sir

Referring to your letter of the 9th inst., I am to say that it is understood that when the land belonging to the Charity was sold in 1911, the rights or alleged rights of way to the said land over the lands known as Open Brasenose and Open Magdalen were not expressly included in the Conveyance, and the Commissioners have no information as to their having been sold subsequently.

It may be as well that I should add that the question whether any rights which may have existed at the time of the sale continued to exist as rights in gross after the sale is a matter of general law upon which the Commissioners could not express a binding opinion.

I am, Reverend Sir,

Your obedient servant

Charles F Ritchie

**OBSERVATIONS BY THE VICAR
ON THIS LETTER**

My readers will observe that the roads to Elder Stubbs and back from this parish were left untouched. The land was sold, but the roads have not been sold, as some persons are stating. The other point to remember is that the Charity Commissioners are merely advisers in these matters, and it is the duty of Trustees to protect the property of Charities; but Cowley has been very unfortunate. It is a growing parish, and when new people have come they have shown very little discretion and a very slight knowledge, and they have been so unfortunate as to neglect the opportunity (which strangers do in most cases) of getting information from those who possess it, namely, the permanent Trustees, not the men who pass away every three or four years. The consequence is that Charities are lost because of these people, who are always wanting new schemes, and then run away, having no real interest in the parish or the residents in it.

I am now going to give you a cogent case, which has happened here. There is a famous School, called Christ's Hospital; the name itself signifies what it is. It is a School when the Christian religion is kept in its proper place; it is an excellent School. The nomination of a child to this School is worth £200. Many men holding high positions in Church and State have been educated at this School, and it is

one of the best Schools in England. Now how does this affect Cowley? In 1772 Vincent Phipps left a legacy of £1,000 on trust for a child from St Mary Magdalene, Oxford, and Cowley alternately. St Mary Magdalene now is one of the smallest parishes in Oxford, consequently there are very few children there, and naturally Cowley should have sent a child to this School owing to this. Not a bit of it! I cannot trace a single child who has been sent from the ancient parish of Cowley. I have tried on three occasions to get a child nominated, but I have always failed, and the opposition on each occasion has been able to quote some "scheme" which has been got through by these foolish people that I have lived to see do so much mischief, and have tried on many occasions to do more. The Bread Charity is a specimen of this. A "wiseacre" got through a scheme, with other newcomers to the parish, that the Trustees "might give something else besides bread." Now about twenty persons get a little coal here, out of a £120 Charity. Cowley now has – and these will increase – men of education, men of honour, who would not do a dirty trick so there is really no excuse why the rights of the less fortunate in the world should not be protected here. I recommend every man and woman to think and act as they know is right, and not to be hoodwinked by those little gods which spring up in this country

where the population increases.

Most of these Charities of which I am now speaking were left by those who gave them to be administered by the Vicar and Churchwardens of parishes. Now and during the last fifty years there have been efforts made to substitute others for Churchwardens, but these others whoever they are, have no moral right to deprive the rightful recipients of these Charities. To get to their present position their advocates have always said, "there is no intention to do this," but I should be a dishonest man and a coward if I did not tell you what I am now writing. I am at the last stage in my life, and I see the same stalking horse, blind and lame, with his cant and unreality and biblical phrases, turning the world upside down, and wanting others to believe that he is a saint and wishes others well.



"Frankly, I've often wondered what it was our ancestors saw in all those christians."

From The Cowley Chronicle 1986

Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Sung Eucharist

Every fourth Sunday: *Church at the Centre*

Every third Sunday: *Sunday Lunch*

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30 am Parish Eucharist

Mid-Week Services & Meetings

Monday	8.15 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	2.30 pm	Parish Mothers' Union – St James (3rd Mon)
Tuesday	8.15 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	10.00 am	Seashells Toddler Group : St James
	12.00 pm	Eucharist – St James
	12.30 pm	Tuesday Lunch Club – St James
	2.30 pm	Friends of St Francis – St Francis (2nd & 4th Tues)
Wednesday	8.15 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	9.15 am	Morning Prayer – St Francis
Thursday	8.15 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	7.30 pm	Healing Service (1st Thurs) St James/St Francis (alternate months)
Friday	8.15 am	Morning Prayer – St James
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer – St James

Home Groups

Leader

Una Dean

Connie Uren:

Friends of St Francis:
(John Streeve/Molly Oliver)

Tony Beetham

Patrick Gilday:

Rosanne Butler

Mark Oxbrow

Time / Venue

Alternate Monday mornings at 10:15am in Una's home

Alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2:30pm in St James Church Centre Lounge

Tuesday alternate afternoons at 2:30pm in St Francis Church

Alternate Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm in St James Church Centre Lounge

Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm in St Francis Church upper room

Alternate Thursday mornings at 10:30am in St James Church Centre Lounge

Alternate Thursday evenings at 7:30pm in Mark's home

The Parish of Cowley office in St James Church Centre is open

Thursday 12.45 pm to 4.30 pm

Friday 9.00 am to 1.15 pm
and by appointment.

Parish Secretary:

Elaine Ulett

Ministry Team Telephone:

01865 747 680

parishofcowley@hotmail.co.uk

Team Rector

Revd Howard Thornton

Cowley Rectory

11 Beauchamp Lane

Oxford OX4 3LF

Howard has Friday as his day off.

Team Vicar

Revd Susannah Reide

27 Don Bosco Close

Oxford OX4 2LD

Susannah has Monday as her day off.

Associate Priest

Revd Richard Chand

richard@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Non-Stipendiary Ministers

Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow

13 Annesley Road

Oxford, OX4 4JH

Tel: 01865 461953

markoxbrow@aol.com

Revd Amanda Bloor

Diocesan Church House

North Hinksey

Oxford OX2 0NB

Tel: 01865 208 221

parishofcowley@hotmail.co.uk

Churchwardens:

David Stanley Tel: 776602

Norah Shallow Tel: 765199

Deputy Wardens:

Margaret Martin Tel: 718532

John Shreeve

Hall Bookings

Pat Sansom Tel: 778516

www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk